CONGRESSWOMAN

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THE 1ST DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

TIPS FOR SAVING MONEY AT THE GAS PUMP

Maintain your vehicle: A car that runs smoothly uses less gas than one that is poorly maintained. Be sure to change your oil frequently, replace your air filter, and perform other basic maintenance. Spending money on these simple things can actually save you money.

Buy a more energy efficient car: If you have a car that gets low gas mileage, you might save money by selling your car and buying one with higher fuel economy. An SUV averaging 15 MPG has an average annual fuel cost of about \$4,000. An economy car averaging 30 MPG will have an annual fuel cost of about \$2,000 – saving approximately \$2,000 per year. Over 10 years, the savings is about \$20,000. The difference will increase if the cost of gas continues to go up.

Don't drive aggressively: Driving aggressively—tailgating, accelerating quickly, racing to beat red lights, jamming on the breaks, hitting the gas pedal hard when the light turns green, frequently changing lanes, and driving at speeds in excess of 75 MPH—can cost you money. For the worst offenders, fuel efficiency may decrease by as much as 35%. Being calmer on the road may save you as much as \$840 per year in fuel costs.

Slow down: Reducing your speed from 70 MPH to 55 MPH on the highway can improve fuel economy by 30% and save you up to \$720 at the pump. All cars lose fuel efficiency at speeds above 55 MPH, so slow down and save.

Remove excess weight: Carrying excess weight in your car forces it to work harder. Take out anything you don't need. Small differences can add up over time.

Roll up windows on highway: Contrary to conventional wisdom, rolling down the windows on the highway instead of using air conditioning actually wastes gas. Open windows increase wind drag, forcing the car to work harder. If you like to drive with the windows down, do it when you drive slowly: at speeds of 40 MPH or higher, wind drag begins to have a negative effect on your vehicle's fuel efficiency.

Keep your tires properly inflated: For every pound per square inch (PSI) that you lose in all four of your car's tires, your fuel efficiency is reduced by approximately .4%. If all four tires are ten PSI underinflated, you'll use up to 4% more fuel.

Drive Less: Let's face it, the less you drive, the less you pay. Carpool, bicycle, walk. Share a ride, get more exercise, use less gas.

All fuel costs, except where otherwise noted, are approximated by assuming road travel of 15,000 miles per year at 25 MPG, with fuel costing \$4 per gallon.